

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9566
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AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11357

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ETEL, GW
SUBJECT: RFE/RL

REFERENCE: BONN 10663

1. ON JUNE 16, BIB CHAIRMAN GRONOUSKI AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERTS PAID A CALL ON DR. LUECKING, FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR EAST-WEST AFFAIRS. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, GRONOUSKI TOLD LUECKING, WAS TO THANK THE FRG ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE USG FOR ITS POSITIVE DECISION ON THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST AND ON THE NEW LICENCE FOR RFE/RL (SEE REFTEL).

2. REFERRING TO VAN WELL'S PRESENTATION TO THE AMBASSADOR, GRONOUSKI OBSERVED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE WRITTEN STATEMENT REQUESTED OF RFE/RL TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH FRG FEDERAL BROADCASTING LAW (PARA 2 REFTEL) COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN ALMOST VERBATIM FROM RFE/RL'S OWN POLICY GUIDELINES. GRONOUSKI PRESENTED LUECKING WITH A COPY OF BIB'S FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT (1978) AND INVITED HIS PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE
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SECTIONS ON RFE/RL'S MISSION AND PROGRAM POLICY.
BOTH AGREED THAT RFE/RL WAS ALREADY MEETING THE FRG'S LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND THAT THE WRITTEN STATEMENT FORMALIZING THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS.

3. LUECKING POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG'S DECISION HAD

BEEN MADE AFTER SERIOUS AND PROLONGED CONSIDERATION BY THE "HIGHEST LEVELS" OF THE FRG. THE ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY, ALL SIDES HAD BEEN HEARD, AND THE PROS AND CONS HAD BEEN WEIGHED. A POSITIVE DECISION HAD THEN BEEN MADE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR CONTINUED RFE/RL OPERATIONS FROM FRG SOIL. LUECKING ADDED THAT HEHWS PERSONALLY GRATIFIED BY THIS COURSE OF EVENTS SINCE HIS EXPERIENCE WITH BERLIN AND EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MADE CLEAR TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RADIOS TO THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

4. IN CONCLUSION, GRONOUSKI REITERATED THAT IT IS BIB'S FUNCTION TO OVERSEE ALL ASPECTS OF RFE/RL'S OPERATIONS AND ASKED THAT LUECKING INFORM HIM PERSONALLY (THROUGH AMEMBASSY BONN) OF ANY PROGRAM WHICH LUECKING FELT DID NOT MEET THE FRG'S GUIDELINES. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT LUECKING FEEL FREE IN COMMUNICATING AT ANY TIME HIS COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON RFE/RL'S BROADCASTING. COMMENTS FROM FRG EMBASSIES IN EASTERN EUROPE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED.

5. THE SUBJECT OF THE GERMAN TAKEOVER OF LONGWAVE FREQUENCY 209 DID NOT ARISE.
STOESSEL

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